

Title I Winter Update

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Reauthorization of ESEA

Both the House and the Senate have passed the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) and the President is expected to sign the legislation early this new year. This has been long in coming, but reauthorization has finally become a reality.

There has not been a lot of information available yet as to the specifics to the new bill, although the full bill is available for review. The bill is posted at <http://thomas.loc.gov/> Type in HR1 in the search box. Choose the sixth version of the bill, which is the final enrolled bill.

There do not appear to be many changes in the actual provision of Title I services. However, there are changes in assessment and accountability requirements as well as other modifications in

the law. The authorization dates of the new bill include federal fiscal years 2002 – 2007. When we have been given guidance from the federal office, we will make arrangements for disseminating the information to each school district's authorized representative and Title I contact.

Kindergarten Screening

Caution is given concerning Kindergarten screening events and the appropriate use of the screening results. An excellent resource is available through NAEYC entitled "Developmental Screening in Early childhood: A guide (4th ed.)" by Samuel Meisels at <http://www.naeyc.org/> for \$5.00.

Performance Descriptors

Draft copies of the Language Arts and Mathematics performance descriptors were sent to all districts in early fall for teacher and administrative review. Comments that were submitted were compiled and presented to the State Board of Education at their December meeting. At that time, the Board did approve the performance descriptors. The descriptors will be formatted and placed on DECA's website along with the content standards.

The descriptors are a part of the Performance Standards and will be used to help set cut scores for the state assessments. A recent workshop involving SD teachers revisited

the cut scores previously set for the SAT9 at grades 2, 4, 8, and 11 in reading comprehension and math problem solving. Revisions to the cut scores will be sent to each district once the department has finalized them and submitted to the testing company. Cut scores for DACS will be set in June.

Performance descriptors are meant to be used in conjunction with the content standards and will help teachers define proficiency for their students in each of the Language Arts and Mathematics goals.

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Six Plus One Writing

The “Six Plus One” traits of good writing are ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. The main focus of the “Six Plus One” workshop is to assess student writing. After students become familiar with the six traits, they will be able to evaluate samples of their writing, understand what areas need work, and plan revisions. Students will read with a critical eye and with an understanding and appreciation of good writing.

A group of trainers in South Dakota have received training using materials developed

and field tested by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. The group includes experienced South Dakota K-12 and university writing teachers. DECA will match trainers with requests from school districts interested in improving students' writing skills. The cost of the trainers and the handouts will be paid by DECA. Requests for workshops must be made four weeks in advance by contacting Terri Cordrey at 773-4662 or sending an e-mail to terri.cordrey@state.sd.us

*“Until I feared I would
lose it, I never loved to
read. One does not love
breathing.”
~Harper Lee*

Reading Literacy

The Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA) has developed a booklet to help improve reading in young children called Put Reading First:: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read. This booklet geared to the instruction of children in Kindergarten through grade 3 talks about different types of reading instruction including phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension that all contribute to better reading skills. Each district will receive one copy of this booklet with the Title I Winter Update.



BOOK IT! Reading Program

The popular BOOK IT! Reading Incentive Program now starts even earlier than grade school. This is the fifth year for the BOOK IT! Beginners Program for preschool and pre-kindergarten children. This is an eight week program with the children receiving pizza certificates every four weeks. Their teachers read to the students for at least 60 minutes a week. Parents are also encouraged to read to them at home. With every book read the students may put a cutout or sticker on a poster to record what they read. Packets for the teachers and parents that include reading activities centered around

the theme of the PBS television show *Between the Lions* are available. This is a great way to make reading fun and allow the students to gain enthusiasm and enjoyment from reading. For more information about this program visit the BOOK IT! Web site at www.bookitprogram.com or call 1-800-4BOOKIT (1-800-426-6548) to enroll. Check out great tips and resources for reading that are available on the BOOK IT! Families web site at www.bookitfamilies.com.



Conferences

National Title I Conference in Tampa, Florida

This annual conference is slated for January 23-26 in Tampa, Florida. Learning about new programs and ways to better reach Title I students will be the focus of this conference in Florida. To register and for other information visit the website at <http://www.titlei.org/>



Early Childhood Conference

The Early Childhood State Conference for 2002 will be held in Pierre, South Dakota January 31-February 2. The location for this event, which will feature Richard Cohen and two people associated with Mr. Rogers Neighborhood as speakers, will be the Ramkota RiverCentre Hotel and Convention Center. This event is jointly sponsored by Education of Young Children and the South Dakota Head Start Association. For more details about this conference contact Lisa Jordre at 773-6949; e-mail Lisa.Jordre@state.sd.us or Beth Dean at 224-6603; e-mail basdean@hotmail.com.

Math and Science Conference

Huron is the site of the 9th Annual Joint Conference of the South Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the South Dakota Science Teachers Association. This conference will be held February 7-9, 2002 at the Crossroads Hotel and Convention Center in Huron, South Dakota. For more information visit the SDCTM website at <http://www.sdctm.org/>.

South Dakota Reading Council Conference

Literacy Roundup is the theme of the South Dakota Reading Council's Spring Conference. March 21-23, 2002 are the dates for this conference that will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

"By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn."
~Latin proverb

IRA Annual Conference

The International Reading Association will be hosting its 47th Annual Convention April 28-May 2, 2002 in San Francisco, California. Many speakers including children's authors, illustrators, researchers, and others in the fields of literacy and technology will be present. Check out the enclosed brochure for more information. Also, more information may be found on the web at www.reading.org.



Forming a Local Coordinated School Health Council

"The link between children's health and their potential to succeed in school is inextricable." So opens a report entitled "Building Bridges to Healthy Kids and Better Students," released this month by the Council of Chief State School Officer's Resource Center on Educational Equity.

Have you suspected that your school's poor performance in reading and math could be linked to health related factors? Could factors such as poor nutrition, lack of sleep or absenteeism due to illness be contributing to student's low performance on evaluations?

DECA's Coordinated School Health is looking for ten new schools that are willing to commit to forming local coordinated school health councils based on the Centers for Disease Control's eight component model. This

model stresses looking at all the elements involved in coordinating school health programs which include health education, physical education, health services, nutrition services, counseling, psychological and social services, healthy school environment, health promotion for staff and parent/community involvement. Information will be forthcoming about registration for a conference that will be held at Augustana in June. Ten new schools will join another ten schools that have already implemented local coordinated school health councils over the past two years. Registration for the conference will be sent to schools by the end of January.

If you'd like more information feel free to call Janet Ricketts, Coordinated School Health at 773-4257.



Correspondence

From time to time there will be weeks when I am out of the office visiting schools and attending meetings. It is during those times when the phone messages pile up. It is much easier and more efficient for me to respond to email messages as I can do that early in the morning or late in the afternoon when you are not available for phone calls. Please consider using this form of correspondence whenever possible. If phone calls are needed in addition to the email, we can make those arrangements to fit our schedules. Thanks for your understanding. diane.lowery@state.sd.us

Coming Soon

There are two letters that will be sent under separate cover. The first will be sent out today regarding school improvement and corrective action. The second letter will come in a week or two concerning appropriate Title I services in targeted assistance schools. Please watch for these letters sent to Superintendents, Title I Contacts, and Authorized Representatives.

Title I Mailing List

We are updating our mailing list for Title I contacts and would like to assure that we have the correct building and its address for each contact. Please email your building addresses to Julie Elrod at julie.elrod@state.sd.us. We expect that there will be numerous mailings to Title I Contacts and Authorized Representatives in the months to come due to the reauthorization of ESEA.



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